

## ONLY CHINESE REPORTS

**TRUSTWORTHY NEWS OF THE FATE  
OF THE ENVOYS STILL LACKING.**

**Letter From Peking, Dated July 9, Says Many of the Foreigners Had Fallen, but the British Legation Was Still Holding Out—Alarm- ing Reports About Situation in the Yangtze**

**Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.**  
LONDON, July 26.—Final proof of the fate of the foreigners in Peking is still withheld and the latest additional references to the situation merely corroborate previous reports of various dates.

an extract from a letter from the President of the minor board, dated Peking, July 9, to the relative in Shanghai. This says that the British legation on that date was still under attack, but owing to the daily constant fighting it was reported that only 300 persons were alive in it. It was added that, should foreign relief arrive early, there might still be a chance of saving those who remain, but if there was further delay, the writer said, it

The correspondent says he has reason to believe that the letter is authentic. He thinks it significant that it does not contain the slightest allusion to assistance being given

Shanghai continues to send prophecies of war in reference to the Yang-tse region. Three thousand men and more guns are

is said, being sent to the Kiang-yi forts, commanding the entrance to the river. It is expected that torpedoes will shortly be laid throughout the Yang-tse-Kiang. Chang Chi Tung, Viceroy of Wuchang, is reported as saying that he fears that his own

The *Telegraph's* correspondent at Canton, in a despatch dated July 21, declares the south-

there as unpromising. He states that Tak Sui, the acting Viceroy, has published the following Imperial decree, which he announces was issued on the twenty-third day of the Sixth Moon:

"We have lost Tientsin, and great precautions have been taken at Peking. No peace can be obtained without going through war. In the time of Chung-Oow, an agreement was made that no murder can be inflicted

month since the Minister of Germany was assassinated by Boxers and strict orders have been given for the arrest of his murderers. We are trying our utmost to preserve the lives of the other Ministers and they are still alive.

"We fear the Viceroys and Governors may

not understand the intention of the decree, relying upon the safety of the Ministers as a ground for making peace and taking no heed whatever to prepare for attack and defence. Neglect of fortifying the districts in their jurisdiction was

bring endless calamity. Viceroy and Government are to pay all attention and urge all preparations for coast attack and defence, and they are to take the consequences in case any territory being lost entirely through the delay or mismanagement."

The correspondent adds that the European

part of the edict, which means that the Viceroy and Governors are commanded by the Empress to prepare for war against the allied Powers. Tak Su, who is bitterly anti-foreign, is increasing his armaments.

jection through the Prefect of Kwang-chow to four small gunboats, two French, one American and one British, which are at Canton to protect the foreigners, and he wants them removed beyond the Bogue forts. His plans will be unmasked shortly after the allied armaments definitely take the forts.

being sedulously concealed. Chinese gunboats infest the channel at the back of Shameen and eighteen Chinese gunboats are awaiting orders below the Imperial Government wharves. The Cantonese are daily becoming more hostile. The situation is critical. Business is almost at

A despatch from Taku, dated July 22, says Gen. Li, who commands the Pei-tang forts near Taku, has informed the British officer commanding at Tong-ku that a runner who left Peking on July 14 reports that the city was then in a state of absolute

The Boxers, who appeared to have the advantage. The legation guards had exhausted the ammunition for their Maxim guns and the Europeans were using their rifles sparingly. Just before the messenger's departure the Chinese mounted

but the guards rushed out and silenced the guns. A minority of the Chinese princes are desirous of protecting the foreigners. Gen. Li added that he was anxious to avoid fighting the allies.

According to the *Times* correspondent at Tientsin the handing over of the soldiers to the

A Shanghai despatch to the *Times* claims trustworthy authority for stating that Li Hung Chang has received secret instructions to remain at Shanghai for the present and to endeavor

the Powers from advancing on Peking. The difficulty of this course is that the Consuls refuse to discuss the situation with Li until they are convinced of the safety of the Ministers. Li, who is surrounded by a daily increasing circle of relatives and friends, is now at the residence of Liu, who meets

Engineer Jameson and a party including twenty missionaries have arrived safely at Shanghai after a perilous journey from Hual King. They were frequently attacked and several of them were

Party had a narrow escape at Nantjanfu, where the magistrate was openly hostile. They owe their lives to the protection of their disciplined escort by the Viceroy of Wuchung. The latter has informed the United States Consul at Nantjanfu that the

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Sunday. See adv. excursion column A.—Adv.

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